

BERLIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ANCIENT STUDIES



METHOD MATTERS

11 & 12 October 2022

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BERLINER ANTIKE-KOLLEG

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PROGRAMME

Tuesday, October 11th, 2022

Welcome and Introduction

Chair: Cataria Fahrendholz

- 09:00 Welcoming – Hosts
Welcoming – Dr. Regina Attula
- 09:10 Opening Keynote – Dr. Julian Plenefisch
- The Sorrows (and Joys) of PhD Students

Session 1 Data and Dynamics

Chair: Abbas Riahi

- 09:30 Yunyun Yang
- Spatial analysis in changes of distribution patterns of the prehistoric sites in Inner Mongolia Geographic Information System
- 10:00 Daniele Zampierin
- The right keys for the right questions. Defining the keys for a functional database of the Imported materials dating between the 2nd c. BCE and the 5th century CE from the site of Khor Rori (Oman)

COFFEE BREAK (15 min)

Session 2 Ritual and Reconstruction

Chair: Abbas Riahi

- 10:45 Cataria Fahrendholz
- Continuity and change: A cluster analysis of the Zhang family tomb complex, Liao Dynasty (916-1125), Northeast China
- 11:15 Lu Tian
- Transmission of Buddhist Imagery on the Silk Roads: Analysis of the Archeological Finds from the Qigexing Temple in Ritual Context

LUNCH BREAK (1 hour)

Session 3 Meaning and Mood

Chair: Yunyun Yang

- 12:45 Abuduxikeer Aierken
- Methodological problems of identifying information structure categories in historical corpora and approaches to identifying topic constituents in Old Uyghur narrative stories.
- 13:15 Abbas Riahi
- Theory or method: research approach in linguistic studies

COFFEE BREAK (15 min)

Final Discussion

Chair: Yunyun Yang

- 14:00 Final round table with open discussion
- Quiz game: METHODOPOLY

Wednesday, October 12th, 2022

Excursion to the Humboldt Forum
Schloßplatz 1, 10178 Berlin

<https://www.humboldtforum.org/de/>

- 10:00 Meet outside at the entrance of Portal 3
- Visit the newly curated collection presentations of the Ethnological Museum (and/or the Museum of Asian Art) of the National Museums in Berlin
- 13:00 Joint lunch at Restaurant

METHOD MATTERS

Critical thinking on methodology

Silk Road Workshop 2022

11-12 October, BerGSAS Berlin

BerGSAS Lecture Hall, Freie Universität Berlin,
Hittorfstraße 18.

METHOD MATTERS face all who work scientifically.

On the first day of the workshop, PhD students from the Silk Road programme will present methodological issues related to their research. An exchange of topic and methodology creates interdisciplinary communication, which enables and promotes mutual professional support and expertise – now, and in the future.

On the second day, we will visit the Humboldt Forum, with the opportunity, to explore the collection presentations of the Ethnological Museum and the Museum of Asian Art of the National Museums in Berlin, as well as five other special exhibitions. The workshop will be rounded off by a joint lunch, where we can deepen our scientific dialogue in a casual atmosphere.

Let's get together to find out why methods matter!

The workshop will be held in present.
Registration: silkroad.bergsas@berliner-antike-kolleg.org

Organisers: Cataria Fahrendholz, Yunyun Yang, Abbas Riahi

Host: Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies (BerGSAS), Silk Road programme, berliner-antike-kolleg.org/bergsas/

Opening Keynote

Dr. Julian Plenefisch will open the workshop with a short talk on [The Sorrows \(and Joys\) of PhD Students](#).

From 2009 until he received his PhD in 2015, Dr. Plenefisch was a research associate at the Institute of Japanese Studies. During this time, he was able to teach and conduct research in Tokyo, Osaka, and London with funding from the Toshiba Foundation and the German Institute of Japanese Studies. He was also allowed to help develop the concept of the Graduate School of East Asian Studies at the FU Berlin and to serve on its leadership. Afterwards, he was a member of the management of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation until the end of 2021 and has been the director of the Department of Health, Education and Training at the Alice Salomon University since the beginning of 2022.

Abstracts:

[Spatial analysis in changes of distribution patterns of the prehistoric sites in Inner Mongolia Geographic Information System](#)

Yunyun Yang, Prehistoric Archaeology

As part of my overall project to study changes in subsistence economy and landscape dynamics in Inner Mongolia from the Neolithic to the Early Iron Age (6200-300 BCE), one of the core questions is to clarify how site distribution patterns changed over time. In processing the quantitative data, which includes 6419 sites through surveys and 345 sites through excavations or detailed surveys, it is important to create geospatial data and carry out spatial analysis in the Geographic Information System (GIS). The first steps are to collect data from extensive excavation and survey reports and to integrate spatial and non-spatial data. The challenges that follow are to find so-called patterns in a macro-regional view and, beyond that, to zoom in to a micro-regional view to deepen the research questions and explore the potential dynamics behind them, whether environmental, social, or otherwise. In short,

discussions will focus on data collections and relevant fundamental analyses of vector points (representing archaeological sites) in Quantum GIS.

[The right keys for the right questions. Defining the keys for a functional database of the imported materials dating between the 2nd c. BCE and the 5th century CE from the site of Khor Rori \(Oman\).](#)

Daniele Zampierin, Near Eastern Archaeology

The archaeological area of Khor Rori (Oman) hosts two distinct sites: Sumhuram, an Hadhrami city-port, and Hamr al-Sharqiya 1 (HAS1), a Dhofar Coastal Culture settlement. The foundation of HAS1 dates to the Iron Age, while Sumhuram was established at the beginning of the 2nd century BCE. The two sites coexisted until the 2nd century CE when HAS1 was destroyed and abandoned while Sumhuram continued its history until the 4th- 5th century CE. The economic importance of the area derived from the production of the frankincense resin and from the inclusion of the sites in the Indian Ocean international trading network connecting the Mediterranean to the Indian subcontinent. Despite the interest on the topic and the ever-growing amount of data collected, it is still difficult to develop a comprehensive study of the trade dynamics due to the scattered nature of the data sources. The presented work aims to construct a database that collects the data regarding the imported materials retrieved from both settlements. The purpose is to develop a database that can be of support to access data from published materials from across the Ocean allowing the development of comprehensive studies for a better understanding of the ancient trading network mechanisms.

[Continuity and change: A cluster analysis of the Zhang family tomb complex, Liao Dynasty \(916-1125\), Northeast China](#)

Catarina Fahrendholz, East Asian Art History

The members of the Zhang family were Han Chinese and Buddhists who lived in Xuanhua, northwest of Beijing, on the southern edge of the Liao Empire. But when archaeologists first opened the wooden sarcophagus of Zhang Wenzao (1029-74) and his wife in 1993, it

contained neither a corpse, nor the cremated human remains essential for a Buddhist burial. Instead, they found two life-size human replicas, called effigies, made of straw, and fully clothed in crown and boots. There, in the chest of these effigies, lay hidden the ashes of the deceased. Only five hundred meters to the northwest, within the same family burial complex, the tomb owner was treated entirely different. The now mummified body had first been embalmed, then wrapped in a net of copper wire, and finally covered with thick layers of silk. Both tombs belong to the same tomb complex, following the Zhang family line. Why then, is there such a difference? How and for what reason did the Zhang family change their burial practices? One way to explore this question, and to examine both, continuity and change, is to cluster the archaeological material. In my presentation, I will exemplify how I use the method of cluster analysis to reveal patterns in the tomb equipment and then discuss what findings or further research might result.

[Transmission of Buddhist Imagery on the Silk Roads: Analysis of the Archeological Finds from the Qigexing Temple in Ritual Context](#)

Lu Tian, East Asian Art History

The role of the Qigexing Temple, which was located in the former kingdom of Karashar (chi. Yanqi 焉耆), has been largely neglected in research to date, as it formerly has been unclear how this area contributed to the transmission of Buddhist representations along the Silk Roads. Utilizing an art historical perspective, this paper aims to evaluate the scattered archeological finds from various collections embedded in the overall development of Buddhist art on the ancient Silk Roads. The focus on one hand is on the dating and relative chronology of the find materials and on the other hand centers on the reconstruction of the original cave of these objects. As a result, the arrangement scheme should provide diverse information about the ritual practices and cultures of the different timespan in this area.

[Methodological problems of identifying information structure categories in historical corpora and approaches to identifying topic constituents in Old Uyghur narrative stories.](#)

Abuduxikeer Aierken, Central Asian Studies

This paper discusses the methodological issues with the identification process of information structure concepts in historical texts and suggests a language-specific approach as supplement strategy to the conventional methods. The major issue in determining information structural concepts is its dependency on the intention of the speakers (or writers). To treat an element as topic, focus or given is decided by the speaker (writer) with the intention to express a certain type of communicative goal. Speaker (or writer) intentions are private and there is no way to directly read them off in any given utterance. But the hypothesis on speaker's intention is more or less plausible since permanent hypothesizing on speaker intentions is the method that enables communication in the first place. Based on this hypothesis, distributional data, contextual cues and information structure tests are the common methods to identify the information structural concepts (Matić 2014). While these methods encounter additional problems when it comes to the historical corpora. Historical corpora are much smaller in size and therefore less apt to generate plausible hypotheses. Comparable structures are often not immediately available in historical corpora to generate a convincing mapping of form and meaning. We suggest a language-specific approach as a supplement to the methodological deficiencies of the current information structure identifying methods for historical texts. Old Uyghur is a language with subject-verb agreement feature. Agent referent of the verb will be reflected on the verbal predicate.

The agents of the verb are the essential referents of the sentence that must be checked for its information statuses. Based on conventional information structure identifying methods, we will examine every agent of the verb, especially subject constituents, for its information statuses with the correlation hypothesis of subject and topic. This method facilitates us to identify the discourse referents with less effort, especially in the cases where ellipses are deployed.

Theory or method: research approach in linguistic studies

Abbas Riahi, Iranian Studies

Since the kind of research I am doing belongs to historical and comparative linguistic fields, rather than talking about special characteristics of my research, which would be very specific and abstract, I would prefer to present a short and compact review on the way research usually goes in these kinds of studies. I would therefore talk about the so-called methods, provided that they could be called such, which are used in some kinds of linguistic research and the way one decides what to choose as their method/framework. What is to be done in my research is a comparative study about Optative Mood in Middle Persian, Parthian, and Bactrian. I would shortly describe how this research would go and what the means are for analysis and probable results.

